GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:826
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
FUNGUS IN WHEAT CROP
Yadav Shri Baleshwar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fungus which cause harm to the wheat crop in the country as reported in `Dainik Jagran` dated January 25, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. The African race of stem rust fungus of wheat is not reported in India News items appeared in `Dainik Jagaran` on 25-1-2007 regarding likely entry of fungus from Kenya which apprehended to adversely affect wheat crop in India. A fungus strain by name UG 99 at stem rust was identified in Kenya in 1999 and also traced in Yemen. A vigil is being kept on the movement of this race by Directorate of Wheat Research, through International collaboration. Centro International de Majormiento de Maize Y Frigo (CIMMYT) Mexico is also providing regular information on the movement of this race. There is well established Plant Quarantine regulatory system under the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1940 in the country, under which necessary steps are taken to prevent the introduction and spread of exotic pests that are destructive to crops by regulating/restricting the import of plant/plant products. There are well defined regulations under Plant Quarantine Order for the import of any plant product either for propagation or consumption purposes. Post entry quarantine inspection is also undertaken for ensuring that the plant material is free from any diseases. The plant quarantine regulations are implemented in the country through 39 Plant Quarantine Stations spread over sea ports, airports and land custom stations. Further, a regular surveillance for pest and diseases emergence in the country is also conducted to take emergency measures through Central Integrated Pest Management Centres, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Departments.